IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ravi Iyer Prior Application Serial No.: 08/599,675

Prior Application Filed: February 12, 1996

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

For: PLANARIZATION USING PLASMA OXIDIZED AMORPHOUS SILICON

Group Art Unit: 1104

Examiner:

Whipple, M.

Atty Docket: MICS:0015--2/FLE

93-118.02

Assistant Commisioner For Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 NUMBER:

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: April 14, 1998

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, I hereby certify that I am personally depositing this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service on the date indicated above in a sealed envelope (a) having the above-numbered Express
Mail label and sufficient postage affixed, and (b) addressed to the Assistant
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

April 14, 1998

Dear Sir:

PRELEMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-11 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 12-23 as set forth below: